

ABSTRACT

5 **Method and Apparatus for Discovering a Trust Chain Imparting a Required Attribute to a Subject**

10 An electronic certificate has content data specifying an attribute delegation from an identified issuer to an identified subject, and an electronic signature for confirming the content data. The content data includes a condition (70) requiring that a particular subject must have a particular attribute in order for the delegation to be valid. This particular subject may be the same as or different from the identified subject. More than one such subject-directed condition can be included in the certificate, the conditions being combined in a predetermined logical relationship.

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(Fig. 5)